

Safeguarding Newsletter

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WELCOME

to our safeguarding newsletter.

Another busy term is almost over. It's been fantastic to have our students back in school fulltime. As always if you have any concerns about safeguarding issues you can contact me at Tapton School.

Kath Tabari

Attendance

Tapton School is committed to maximising the achievement of all students and we believe that regular school attendance is the key to enabling children to maximise the educational opportunities available to them. We realise that some young people are experiencing increased anxiety as we return to 'normality', and in addition to the Safeguarding team we have several measures in place to support our student's mental health and wellbeing. We have recently appointed a fulltime Mental Health and Wellbeing coordinator to our MHRW team which has a permanent MHRW worker and 50 members of staff who volunteer to mentor students as MHWB champions. Since September counsellors have been available in school to support students from several agencies. CAMHS, Forge Youth, SYEDA and Door 43 support students through a range of mental health issues. Tapton School believes that improved school attendance can only be achieved if it is viewed as a shared responsibility between staff, governors, parents, students and the wider school community. As such, all stakeholders have a responsibility to support and promote outstanding attendance.

'SHARENTING'

How sharing too much online could put your children in danger.

An article by Alan Lu for Vodaphone has some helpful tips for keeping your family safe. Many parents rightly worry about their children sharing too much online. But parents and grandparents can be just as guilty, forgetting that children have a right to privacy, too. Heedless oversharing can even put kids in potential danger.

Soon it might become easier for kids to fight back. In August 2021, Google announced the launch of a service for anyone aged under 18 to request the removal of images of themselves – images that may well have been posted online by their own family members.

A professor at the University of Florida, who is also a researcher in the areas of children's privacy and sharenting, says that there are some things that should never be shared:

Location data – for example, you can stop your smartphone from saving GPS data in the photos you take by adjusting the camera app's settings.

The child's full name.

Images showing any state of undress, such as at bath time or at the beach.

Dr Emma Nottingham, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Law at the University of Winchester, who has done research into children's rights, adds the following:

The child's birth date and anything that could indirectly indicate it, such as birthday party photos posted on the day itself.

Photos and videos of, or details about other children – such as your child's friends, even if they're only in the background of an image.

Your child's school or anything that could indirectly give that away, such as an image of their school uniform.

You can read the full article [here](#)

FAKE NEWS

Many of us like to share news and stories on social media with our friends. We all share things for different reasons. Perhaps it's an interesting story, news about a celebrity that you like, or something that made you laugh. But when you see something you like online, do you check to make sure that it's true before you share it?

Not everything that we read or see on the internet is true - and if it isn't, and we share it, we could be making more people believe something that is actually made up. Stories like this are called fake news and they can be a problem.

There are two kinds of fake news:

- False stories that are deliberately published or sent around, in order to make people believe something untrue or to get lots of people to visit a website. These are deliberate lies that are put online, even though the person writing them knows that they are made up.
- Stories that may have some truth to them, but they're not completely accurate. This is because the people writing them - for example, journalists or bloggers - don't check all the facts before publishing the story, or they might exaggerate some of it.

It is happening a lot at the moment, with many people publishing these stories in order to get as many shares as possible. Social media makes it much easier for these stories to spread quickly, which can be a problem. It is also easier than it used to be to edit photos and create fake websites and stories that look realistic.

Why is fake news a problem?

The first kind of fake news - deliberate lies - is a problem because it can make people believe things that are completely untrue.

The second kind - when people publish something without checking that it's completely right - can make people have less trust in the media, as well as make everyone believe something that might be inaccurate.

People also only tend to share things that they agree with. So if people are sharing a lot of fake news, and lots of people believe it, it's easy to get sucked into a bubble that is actually completely different to the real world - and a long way from the truth.

When is fake news not fake news?

Sometimes, a story might be called fake news (when actually it isn't) by someone, or a group of people, who don't want to accept that the news is true - even if it might be.

As a result of the rise of fake news, the UK Parliament launched an investigation into it.

The group behind the investigation looked at where fake news comes from, how it spreads and what impact it has. It particularly wanted to look at the effect - if any - that fake news can have on important political decisions, like elections.

How to spot fake news

If you want to try to make sure that you don't get caught out by fake news, there are a few things you can look out for.

Ask yourself:

- Has the story been reported anywhere else?
- Is it on the radio, TV or in the newspapers?
- Have you heard of the organisation that published the story?
- Does the website where you found the story look genuine? (Meaning it doesn't look like a copycat website that's designed to look like another genuine website)
- Does the website address at the very top of the page look real? Is the end of the website something normal like '.co.uk' or '.com', and not something unusual, like '.com.co'?
- Does the photo or video look normal?
- Does the story sound believable?
- If the answer to any of these questions is 'no', you might want to check it out a bit more, before spreading the word.

Links to more information

[BBC Newsround](#) [Full Fact](#) [Google Fact Check Tool](#) [University of Derby](#) [Parliamentary report](#)